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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09:838,521	04/19/2001	Chien-Ping Huang	55832	9464

21874 7590 05/20/2003
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BOSTON, MA 02209

EXAMINER

MITCHELL, JAMES M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2827

DATE MAILED: 05/20/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/838,521

Applicant(s)

HUANG ET AL.

Examiner

James Mitchell

Art Unit

2827

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04/17/2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claim 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (APA) in combination with Kitamura (JP 404002195A) and Nakayama (US 2001/0015285).

APA (Fig 1-2F; Page 2, Line 20 – Page 3, Line 18) discloses a TBGA package configuration and a method of fabricating a ground ball bonding structure on a TBGA package constructed on a heat sink and a tape; the method comprising the steps of forming a via hole (22) in the tape (20) to expose a selected part of the heat sink (10), forming a ring-shaped ground-ball pad (31) over the tape and around the via hole,

forming a solder mask (40) over the tape while unmasking the ring shaped ground ball pad, performing a solder-pasting process to paste a solder material through the solder mask into the via hole and during the solder pasting process air holes voids left in the via hole, performing a first reflow process to reflow the pasted solder in the via hole, attaching a solder ball (51) by means of a solder flux to the pasted solder in the via, performing a second reflow process so as to reflow the solder ball, the solder flux and solder paste into an integral body of solder wetted to the ring ground ball pad to serve as a ground ball connected to the heat sink; wherein the solder mask is wetted to the unmasked interspaced ring (Fig 2C) of the pad, and prevented from being wetted to the solder-unwetteable tape.

The admitted prior art does not show forming a pad with a plurality of air vents greater than a diameter of the unmasked ring-shaped ground pad, substantially at equal radial intervals around the via hole and cut all the way into the tape until reaching the heat sink where air formed in the via are drawn via the vents to outside atmosphere thereby allowing pasted solder to substantially fill the up the via hole or that the equal radial intervals consist of 180, 120 or 90 degrees.

However, Kitamura (English Abstract; Fig 1 and 2) utilizes a pad ("land") with air vents that are inherently cut (pad has a *hollowed out* area that is formed with cross shaped via hole, "through hole" therefore it is cut) all the way into the flexible board until reaching the opposite contact (7), providing four vents spaced substantially at equal radial intervals of 180 and 90 degrees (inherent in a cross shape).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate air vents in the pad of APA that is cut all the way into the flexible board until reaching the opposite contact, in order to provide a secure connection via a through hole (Page 607, Paragraph 3, Lines 17-22) by obtaining an air escape passage (English Abstract).

Nakayama (Fig 2B; abstract) utilizes a pad air vents greater than a diameter of the unmasked ring-shaped ground pad.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the air vents of APA and Kitamura by cutting the air vents greater than a diameter of the pad, because "It is prima facie obvious to combine two compositions each of which is taught by the prior art to be useful for the same purpose, in order to form a third composition to be used for the very same purpose [T]he idea of combining them flows logically from their having been individually taught in the prior art." *In re Kerkhoven*, 626 F.2d 846, 205 USPQ 1069, 1072 (CCPA 1980) (citations omitted) (Claims to a process of preparing a spray - dried detergent by mixing together two conventional spray - dried detergents were held to be prima facie obvious.); See also, *In re Crockett*, 279 F.2d 274, 126 USPQ 186 (CCPA 1960) (Claims directed to a method and material for treating cast iron using a mixture comprising calcium carbide and magnesium oxide were held unpatentable over prior art disclosures that the aforementioned components individually promote the formation of a nodular structure in cast iron.); and *Ex parte Quadranti* 25 USPQ2d 1071 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1992) (Mixture of two known herbicides held prima facie obvious).

Furthermore the prior art of APA and Kitamura discloses the same invention as applicant except that the air vents extend greater than a diameter of the pad, Nakayama shows that air vents substantially equal to or that extend greater than a diameter of the pad are an equivalent structures (Par 0063) known in the art known in the art. Therefore, because these two air vents are art recognized equivalents at the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to substitute an air vent that extends greater than a diameter of the pad for air vents that are substantially the same as the diameter of the pad.

With respect to claims 3 and 7, absent evidence of criticality in the specification, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice bounded by well known manufacturing constraints and ascertainable by routine experimentation and optimization to space the air vents at 120 degree because applicant has not disclosed that the dimensions are for a particular unobvious purpose, produce an unexpected result, or are otherwise critical, and it appears prima facie that the process would possess utility using another dimension. Indeed, it has been held that mere dimensional limitations are prima facie obvious absent a disclosure that the limitations are for a particular unobvious purpose, produce an unexpected result, or are otherwise critical. See, for example, *In re Rose*, 220 F.2d 459, 105 USPQ 237 (CCPA 1955); *In re Rinehart*, 531 F.2d 1048, 189 USPQ 143 (CCPA 1976); *Gardner v. TEC Systems, Inc.*, 725 F.2d 1338, 220 USPQ 777 (Fed. Cir. 1984), cert. denied, 469 U.S. 830, 225 USPQ 232 (1984); *In re Dailey*, 357 F.2d 669, 149 USPQ 47 (CCPA 1966).

Conclusion


Application/Control Number: 09/838,521
Art Unit: 2827

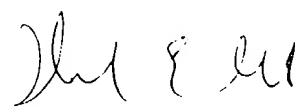
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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James Mitchell whose telephone number is (703) 305-0244. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 10:30-8:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David L. Talbott can be reached on (703) 305-9883. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-3432 for regular communications and (703) 305-3230 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.


jmm
May 14, 2003


DAVID E. GRAYBILL
PRIMARY EXAMINER